

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHNOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONGARD FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PFOR XC, US

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SUBJECT: OCTOBER 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. ALL PAPERS GAVE PROMINENCE TO NOBEL PEACE

PRIZE FOR SECRETARY AND LE DUC THO; NOBEL COMMITTEE HOPES "ALL PARTIES IN THIS CONFLICT WILL FEEL MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LASTING PEACE FOR THE WAR-STRICKEN PEOPLES OF INDOCHINA," BUT TRUCE TERMS STILL NOT CARRIED OUT. VC SPOKESMAN IN PARIS APPLAUDS AWARD FOR THO, WONDERS ABOUT HAK'S AWARD (REUTER, NYT).

2. MRS. NGO BA THANH STAGES ANOTHER SAIGON STREET PROTEST; NO ARRESTS OR INJURIES (NYT).

3. WP'S OBERDORFER REPORTS JAPANESE, ITALIANS SEEK OIL EXPLORATION RIGHTS IN TONKIN GULF FROM NVN (PHINQ). GVN EFFORTS TO STOP INFLATION IN RICE PRICES AND DENY STOCKS TO VC THROUGH SYSTEM OF FIXED PRICES, CONTROLS AND QUOTAS WORKING SMOOTHLY ENOUGH IN FIVE DELTA PROVINCES, BUT DISLOCATIONS ARE VISIBLE (CHITRIB).

4. AIR AMERICA THREATENS ICCS WITH CUTOFF OF AIR SERVICES UNLESS 500,000 DOLLARS IN BACK BILLS PAID; THIS WOULD RESTRICT TRUCE OBSERVERS TO ROAD TRAVEL AND DRASTICALLY REDUCE ABILITY TO FUNCTION; US SEEKS EMERGENCY FUNDS (NYT).

5. GVN REFUSES HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FORNMIN MARJAI PERMISSION TO LAND IN SVN; DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION AVOIDED WHEN THAI INT'L AIRLINES CANCELS FLIGHT (WP).

6. GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS CHARGES 73-MAN US MEDT IN PP BASICALLY ACTING AS ADVISORS CONTRARY TO CONGRESSIONAL BANS AND EARLIER TESTIMONY OF SECSTATE ROGERS AND SECDEF LAIRD. GAO ALSO CHARGES THAT DOS, DOD AND CINCPAC OBSTRUCTED ITS INVESTIGATION. MEDT IS SUPPOSED TO OVERSEE EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES AND ALLOCATION ONLY, BUT REPORT STATES THAT AS UNCLASSIFIED

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TEAM GREW IT ASSUMED MORE FUNCTIONS AND "EXCEPT FOR NOT ASSIGNING ADVISORS TO SPECIFIC FIELD UNITS, MEDT OPERATED MUCH THE SAME AS A MAAG DOES IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY". IT RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN FANK FORCE STRUCTURE, ADVISED AND ASSISTED IN MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS, PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION, HELPED FANK OPERATE ITS HQ AND ITS SUPPLY SYSTEM, AND PERFORMED OTHER MILITARY FUNCTIONS. REPORT ALSO CITES 61 SPECIAL TEAMS TDY'D TO CAMBODIA DURING FISCAL '72 TO EXAMINE MANY ASPECTS OF FANK, SOMETIMES TOTALLY UNRELATED TO EQUIPMENT DELIVERY. AMONG IRREGULARITIES LISTED WERE: CONCEALING 600,000 DOLLARS SPENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS TO RUN BOMBING PROGRAM BEFORE AUG. 15; HIDING COSTS

FOR 300 GIS WHO TRAINED GKR SOLDIERS IN VN AND
FOR "EXCESS" EQUIPMENT TURNED OVER TO FANK; CONTINUED
EXISTENCE OF MANY "PHANTOMS" ON FANK PAYROLLS;
DIVERSION OF WEAPONS BY LON NON FOR HIS OWN BODYGUARD;
AND REQUESTS FOR FUNDS EXCEEDING WHAT MEDT KNEW
GKR COULD ABSORB (UPI WP, PHINQ, CHITRIB; NYDN).

7. PLASTIC BOMB EXPLODES IN PP CINEMA WOUNDING
30 IN WORST TERRORIST INCIDENT SINCE AUG. (AP,
CHITRIB; WP; UPI).

8. UNGA STEERING COMMITTEE VOTES 11 TO 2, WITH
10 ABSTENTIONS, TO PUT KHMER REP QUESTION ON GA
AGENDA. ITEM SPONSORED BY 31 STATES LED BY PRC
AND ALGERIA. FIJI STANDS FAST WITH US (WP).

9. CSM REPORTS THAT IN SURPRISE MOVE USSR RECOGNIZES
SIHANOUK'S EXILE GOVT. AS LEGAL CAMBODIAN REGIME;
NOTE TO THAT EFFECT DELIVERED BY USSR AMBASSADOR IN
PEKING DELIGHTED PRINCE AND HE OVERLOOKED USSR
EMBASSY IN PP, CHARACTERIZED BY MOSCOW AS "OBSERVATION
POST", AND GKR EMBASSY IN USSR. CSM'S WOHL NOTES
THAT SOVIET RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK INDICATES ABANDONMENT
OF IDEA OF THIRD FORCE TAKING OVER IN CAMBODIA.
CSM ADDS THAT RECENT SIHANOUK STATEMENT DISCLOSES
THAT BOTH PEKING AND HANOI HAVE URGED HIM TO NEGOTIATE.

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10. FANK REPORTS FIGHTING SLOWS TO SPORADIC HARASSMENT
OF GKR OUTPOSTS WITH MINOR SKIRMISHES SW AND NE
OF PP, AND SHELLING OF FANK POSITION 17 MI. WEST
OF CAPITAL (AP).

11. SCHANBERG (NYT) WRITES FROM PP OF WORSENING
PLIGHT OF CAMBODIAN ORPHANS. TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS
FOR CARE, EXTENDED FAMILY AND BUDDHIST PAGODAS,
NOW OVERWHELMED SO SOME LIVE ON STREETS, OTHERS
IN REFUGEE CAMPS, WHILE HOMELESS BOYS OF 10 OR
11 SOMETIMES JOIN FANK. GKR HAS NOT TRADITIONALLY
INTERVENED IN PEOPLE'S LIVES, HAS ONLY TWO ORPHANAGES
AND HELPS A THIRD RUN BY PRIVATE AGENCY. MEDICAL
CARE IS CRUDE AND ADOPTIONS FEW. ALL ORPHANAGES
ARE CROWDED AND LIFE FOR INMATES SPARTAN. US AID
LAST YEAR FOR WELFARE PURPOSES WAS 1.2 MILLION
DOLLARS, FOR USE BY INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES;
SCHANBERG ADDS THAT US OFFICIALS HAVE SAID PRIVATELY
THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO GIVE RELIEF MONEY TO
GKR SINCE IT WOULD ONLY END UP IN CORRUPTHANDS.

12. UPI REPORTS FROM VIENTIANE THAT GROUP OF 53
RELATIVES OF US MIAS MET WITH REPS OF USSR, PRC

AND NVN TO SEEK INFORMATION ON MISSING. ONE OF GROUP CHARACTERIZED COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS AS VERY POLITE AND HELPFUL, BUT OFFERING NOTHING ENCOURAGING.

THAILAND

13. REUTER (BANGKOK) CITES "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS SAYING THANOM IS EN ROUTE TO BOSTON ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, DAUGHTER, SON-IN-LAW AND 2 INFANT GRANDCHILDREN; DAUGHTER HAD STUDIED IN BOSTON AND FAMILY BELIEVED TO OWN APARTMENT THERE. SANYA GOVT. REPORTEDLY AGREED TO THANOM'S DEPARTURE. AP (BANGKOK) IDENTIFIES SOURCE OF REPORT AS US EMBASSY.

14. BANGKOK BACK TO NEAR NORMAL; COUNTRY BEGINS PULLING ITSELF OUT OF 2 DAYS OF VIOLENCE AND DEATH (UPI NYDN, CHITRIB). LAT BANGKOK DISPATCH CITES WESTERN DIPLOMATS AS SAYING WHILE IT WAS STUDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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TRIUMPH, MOST IMPRESSIVE PERFORMER IN WHOLE AFFAIR WAS KING, WHO OPENLY SIDED WITH STUDENTS, COUNSELED THEIR LEADERS AND ALLOWED SOME REFUGE WITHIN PALACE GROUNDS WHEN THEY FEARED ARREST (WP; ALSO, CSM'S SOUTHERLAND). SEVERAL REPORTS INDICATE STUDENTS THEMSELVES NEVER EXPECTED THE STUNNING VICTORY.

15. FROM BANGKOK, SUN'S ISAACS AGREES THAT KING CAME OUT OF CRISIS "WITH ENHANCED PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE." NOTES ONLY 3 MILITARY OFFICERS WERE NAMED MINISTERS IN NEW CABINET, KEY INTERIOR MINISTRY WENT TO CIVILIAN FOR FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS AND FACT GEN. KRIS WAS NOT NAMED IS REGARDED AS INDICATION MILITARY COMMAND INTENDS TO RESPECT CIVILIAN RULE. REST OF CABINET DRAWN LARGELY FROM ACADEMIC WORLD AND IS REGARDED AS POLITICALLY MODERATE AND RESPONSIVE TO KING. SAYS SEEMS LIKELY NEW GOVT. WILL EMBARK ON IMMEDIATE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, BUT NOT MAJOR SHIFTS IN POLICY, SINCE IT EXPECTS GIVE WAY EVENTUALLY TO ELECTED GOVT. INFORMED SOURCES SAY THEY EXPECT NO DRAMATIC CHANGE IN RTG'S FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT STATUS OF US TROOPS THERE WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED BY GOVT. CHANGE.

16. NYT'S MARKHAM (BANGKOK) FINDS THAT STUDENTS' "ASTONISHING VICTORY" OVER SEEMINGLY POWERFUL THANOM REGIME APPEARS TO BE UNIVERSALLY POPULAR AMONG PEOPLE OF BANGKOK. SANYA IS HIGHLY POPULAR AND NEW CABINET CONTAINS NUMBER OF RESPECTED EDUCATORS AND NONPOLITICAL CIVIL SERVANTS. DAWEЕ "IS ON GOOD TERMS" WITH BOTH US EMBASSY -- "WHICH GENERALLY DOES NOT APPEAR DISPLEASED" BY COUP -- AND WITH

MANY OF HIS FELLOW OFFICERS, AND HIS APPOINTMENT IS SEEN AS SIGN SANYA WANTS TO REASSURE "BOTH THOSE IMPORTANT SECTORS." EMERGENCE OF THAI STUDENTS AS POLITICAL FORCE MAY WELL POSE PROBLEMS FOR OFFICIAL US PRESENCE IN THAILAND, HOWEVER. AT SAME TIME, ENHANCED POLITICAL STATURE OF KING "WOULD APPEAR TO INSURE AGAINST ANY SUDDEN LURCH IN THAI FOREIGN POLICY." DIPLOMATS EXPECT NEW GOVT. TO CONTINUE THANOM'S "CAUTIOUS APPROACH" TO BETTER RELATIONS
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WITH PEKING. GENERALLY AGREED THAT SANYA'S MOST CRUCIAL TASK WILL BE KEEPING SOLDIERS HAPPY WHILE AT SAME TIME NOT ALIENATING STUDENTS; HERE, AGAIN,

SEEMS LIKELY THAT KING WILL BE IMPORTANT.

17. SOUTHERLAND (CSM), IN BANGKOK, SUGGESTS THAT MILITARY'S INFLUENCE HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY ELIMINATED, AND BIG QUESTION AT MOMENT "STILL SEEMS TO BE TO WHAT EXTENT" MILITARY WILL COOPERATE WITH NEW GOVT. SAYS IF REPORTS ARE TRUE THAT GEN. KRIS REFUSED TO SEND TROOPS AGAINST STUDENTS, THIS "SHOULD DO MUCH TO ENHANCE" HIS ACCEPTABILITY AMONG THEM. NOTES THAT INFORMED SOURCES SAY SANYA ALREADY HAS ASSURED US THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN THAI FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH US.

JAPAN

18. PHINQ'S DOUGLAS WILLIAMS NOTES RECENT CHRYSLER CORP. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT IS GOING AFTER BROADER SEGMENT OF JAPANESE HOME MARKET THROUGH NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MITSUBISHI TO PUT CHRYSLER PRODUCTS IN SELECTED MITSUBISHI DEALER SHOWROOMS, AUGMENTING LONG STANDING NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT CHRYSLER DEALERS IN JAPAN. CHRYSLER SOLD 1,000 CARS IN JAPAN LAST YEAR. GM IS ALREADY IMPORTING HEAVY DUTY AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS INTO JAPAN AND FORD HAS RECENTLY STARTED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS THERE.

PHILIPPINES

19. GOP NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT ABOUT 15,000 PERSONS WERE FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES ALONG PASIG RIVER BANKS AS TYPHOON RUTH SWEEPED ACROSS COUNTRY (UPI, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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20. WSJ'S HARTLEY IN BANGKOK CITES INFORMED SOURCES AS EXPRESSING VIEW THAT THAILAND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE BASIC FOREIGN POLICY OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE IMMEDIATE WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF US FORCES IN THAILAND. SANYA GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET FULLY SECURE AND FACES SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN COMING MONTHS. ACCORDING TO EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT, THE FOCUS WILL BE PREDOMINANTLY DOMESTIC; OBSERVERS SAY SANYA MUST DEAL WITH CORRUPTION AND MUST OPEN UP COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE. HARTLEY SAYS THERE ISN'T MUCH ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING EVIDENT AMONG THAIS, NOT EVEN AMONG RIOTING STUDENTS, AND REPORTS NON-AMERICANS AS SAYING "STUDENTS DON'T FEEL ALL THAT STRONGLY ABOUT AMERICAN BASES. FEW STUDENTS SEEM TO WANT AMERICANS TO LEAVE." ANTI-BASE COMMENTS WERE MADE DURING MANY SPEECHES MARKING THE WEEK OF TURMOIL, BUT THANOM, NOT THE BASES, WAS TARGET. FURTHERMORE, THE CONSERVATIVE AND POWERFUL MILITARY MAY INSIST, AS PART OF PRICE FOR GOING ALONG WITH SANYA GOVERNMENT, THAT FOREIGN POLICY REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED.

21. WP'S LAURENCE STERN REPORTS US OFFICIALS SEEING NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. ASSERTS THAT PREVAILING LINE FROM DIPLOMATIC AND INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN WASHINGTON IS THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM IS NOT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN STUDENT UPRISING, THAT REBELLION CENTERED ON SUCH ISSUES AS DEMANDS FOR CONSTITUTION AND INCREASINGLY HOSTILE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THANOM REGIME AND STUDENTS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE ON LONG-TERM IMPACT OF UPHEAVAL ON US MILITARY PRESENCE.

22. LAT'S JACK FOISIE (OCT. 15) REPORTS THAT TRANG-PHATTHALUNG HIGHWAY, THE ONLY MAJOR WEST-EAST LINK IN SOUTHERN THAI PANHANDLE, IS CONSIDERED MOST BANDIT-PRONE STRETCH OF ROAD IN THAILAND. CITES EXPERIENCE OF GIRL PEACE CORPS TEACHER IN TRANG WHO WAS ON BOARD BUS ROBBED A MONTH AGO; BUS WAS ONE OF ABOUT 20 VEHICLES HELD UP AT DUSK. LAST MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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AP REPORTER WAS STOPPED BY FIVE UNIFORMED MEN WITH CHINESE AK-47 RIFLES WHO SAID THEY WERE LOOKING FOR RTG OFFICIALS; OFFICIALS BELIEVE THEY ARE TARGETS FOR ASSASSINATION ON THIS ROAD. LAST MAY THERE WAS A SHARP BATTLE IN HILLS FLANKING ROAD; 500 GOVERNMENT TROOPERS EVENTUALLY WERE CONFRONTED BY

200 TERRORISTS, BUT CASUALTIES WERE LOW. TERRORISTS WORE JUNGLE GREEN UNIFORM AND CHINESE-STYLE CAP WITH RED STAR OF THAI PLA. (OCT. 16 LAT ALSO PUBLISHES FOISIE REPORT ON THAI STUDENT VIOLENCE WITH PHOTO SHOWING STUDENTS CARRYING BODY OF FELLOW-STUDENT KILLED BY ARMY TROOPS DURING DEMONSTRATION.)

23. LAT'S JACQUES LESLIE (OCT. 16) IN PP REPORTS WILL CONTINUE AS PM. CITES IN TAM AS SAYING IN OCT. 14 INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD ASKED TO RESIGN TO FACILITATE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER DECREE EMPOWERING HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL EXPIRES OCT. 23, BUT THAT COUNCIL'S OTHER THREE MEMBERS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON A SUCCESSOR. WITH AN OBVIOUS TOUCH OF PRIDE, IN TAM SAID "I'M THE EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES." IN PRACTICAL TERMS, ACCORDING LESLIE, ISSUE OF WHETHER IN TAM CONTINUES AS PM IS RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT, SINCE OBSERVERS UNIVERSALLY AGREE THAT MOST REAL POWER IS STILL HELD BY LON NOL. SUM CHHUM'S ANNOUNCEMENT SEEMED TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT IN TAM'S RESIGNATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

24. NYT'S MALCOLM BROWNE IN BANGKOK DISCUSSES THAI STUDENT UPRISING, ASSERTS THAT OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS IN THE REGION ARE LOOKING UPON IT AS SOMETHING ONLY A LITTLE LESS MOMENTOUS THAN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. BEFORE DETAILS WERE KNOWN, SEVERAL RANKING MEMBERS OF PL IN VIENTIANE EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT THE SITUATION; AN ABORTED RIGHTIST COUP AGAINST NEUTRALIST RLG WAS MOUNTED BY LAOTIAN EXILES FROM ACROSS THE MEKONG IN THAILAND IN AUGUST AND LAOS DEPENDS ON TRANSIT RIGHTS THROUGH THAILAND FOR MOST OF HER COMMERCE. ALSO, THAI "VOLUNTEERS" IN LAOS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE. CAMBODIA, TO UNCLASSIFIED

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WHOM THAILAND HAS BEEN A TRADITIONAL ENEMY, IS EVEN MORE CONCERNED, AND THE TWO VIETNAMS ARE POWERFULLY INFLUENCED BY THAI ECONOMY AND ARMY. WHILE MILITARY BATTLES RAGE IN INDOCHINA AND POLITICAL BATTLES PROFOUNDLY CHANGED THE CHARACTER OF GOVERNMENTS IN SEA, THAI MILITARY WHICH GOVERNED COULD BE COUNTED ON TO MAINTAIN A PRO-US POLICY WHICH MADE THAILAND PARTICULARLY SUITABLE AS A BASE FOR US AIR OPERATIONS OVER INDOCHINA. BUT THINGS MAY NOW CHANGE. OBSERVES THAT FEW STUDENTS HAVE ANYTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT SEATO, BLAMING BOTH US AND FORMER GOVERNMENT

FOR BRINGING THAILAND DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO PARTICIPATION IN INDOCHINA WAR. MOST WANT TO SEE THAILAND ON BETTER TERMS WITH TRADITIONAL CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE

ENEMIES. MOST POWERFUL STUDENT OF ALL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER, SAID IN INTERVIEW THAT THAILAND COULD BE GENUINELY SECURE ONLY WHEN SHE NO LONGER RELIED ON ECON AND MILITARY AID FROM ANY COUNTRY, NOTABLY THE US. BROWNE CONCLUDES THAT IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT THAILAND WILL GRADUALLY MOVE TOWARD INCREASINGLY NEUTRALIST ROLE IN ASIA, SEEKING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO GET RID NOT ONLY OF US BASES BUT OF HER IMAGE AS US' BEST FRIEND IN SEA.

25. OCT. 13 BUSINESS WEEK REPORTS THAT GRC IS IN MIDST OF MASSIVE "BUY AMERICAN" CAMPAIGN LARGELY AT EXPENSE OF JAPANESE. FEARFUL OF GROWING TOO DEPENDENT ON JAPANESE IMPORTS, GRC HAS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED JAPANESE BIDDERS ON MAJOR SHIPBUILDING, ELECTRIFICATION, AND PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS. THERE IS ALSO WIDESPREAD ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE JAPANESE, TOUCHED OFF BY GOJ'S RECOGNITION OF PEKING, WHICH PSYCHOLOGICALLY CONDITIONS PEOPLE IN TAIWAN TO DOWN-GRADE JAPANESE PRODUCTS. AS US REMAINS THE ONLY MAJOR POWER THAT CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE GRC, TAIPEI FEELS IT IMPORTANT TO ITS BARGAINING LEVERAGE VIS-A-VIS PEKING AND OTHER CAPITALS TO BE ON GOOD TERMS ACROSS THE BOARD WITH THE US; THAT LARGELY MEANS INCREASED TRADE. ALSO, AS AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY UNCLASSIFIED

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POINTED OUT LAST SPRING, FOR TAIWAN TO SUSTAIN US CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGAINST PRC, BETTER COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE VITAL; THIS MEANS THAT TAIWAN'S FIRST TASK IN IMPROVING THOSE RELATIONS IS REDUCING ITS HUGE PAYMENTS SURPLUS WITH THE US. ACCORDING TO GRC'S VICE MIN FOR ECON AFFAIRS, TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO DO THAT HAVE BEEN STARTLINGLY SUCCESSFUL.

26. NYT'S SULZBERGER VISITS YENAN AND DISCUSSES MAOISM WHICH HE SAYS IS HISTORICALLY RELATED TO THE "EMINENTLY PRACTICAL HERITAGE" HANDED DOWN BY SUCH PERSONS AS EMPEROR WU TI, WHO IN FIRST CENTURY B.C. ADVOCATED STATE OWNERSHIP TO PROTECT THE DESTITUTE, AND EMPEROR WANG MANG, WHO IN 8 A.D. ORDERED GREAT LAND REFORMS, ETC. ASSERTING THERE IS A RELIGIOUS ASPECT TO MAOISM, SULZBERGER ADDS THAT IN CHINA, TRADITIONAL THEOLOGY IS LESS PREOCCUPIED THAN ELSEWHERE WITH METAPHYSICS AND THERE IS LESS INTEREST IN QUEST FOR ABSTRACT TRUTH THAN IN PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WISDOM. CONCLUDES THAT THIS IS THE KERNEL OF MAOIST THOUGHT.

27. CONCERNING NOBEL AWARDS TO THE SECRETARY AND LE DUC THO, NYT THINKS IT IS , "AT THE VERY

LEAST, PREMATURE," SINCE DE-ESCALATION OF INDOCHINA
WAR HAS NOT YET BROUGHT SEA TO A STATE THAT CAN
CONCEIVABLY BE CALLED PEACE. NYDN SAYS CHOICE WAS
SURPRISING, THOUGH CERTAINLY MERITED IN HAK'S
CASE; IMAGINES THAT HE WOULD GLADLY EXCHANGE PRIZE
FOR ONE INSPIRED SUGGESTION THAT WOULD HAL

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